

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 03976 060758Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 060740Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2146

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 3976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOCI, CM

SUBJECT: UNREST AT UNIVERSITY INTENSIFIES

REF: YAOUNDE 3944

1. UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT DEC. 4 IN REACTION TO PUBLICATION STUDENT MAINTENANCE AWARD LIST WITH REDUCED LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR MANY STUDENTS.
2. MORE THAN 100 POLICE PATROLLED CAMPUS AND SURROUNDING AREAS AS STUDENTS BOYCOTTING CLASSES CLASHED WITH NON-BOYCOTTING STUDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE AT JOURNALISM SCHOOL. HEATED ARGUMENTS, STONE-THROWING AND SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE OCCURRED. SEVERAL STUDENTS AND POLICE REPORTEDLY INJURED, RUMOR CIRCULATING ONE STUDENT KILLED.
3. OPINION BEING EXPRESSED AMONG SOME STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS THAT RECENTLY INSTALLED CHANCELLOR (BIDIAS A NGON) AT FAULT FOR EXACERBATING SITUATION BY OVERREACTING, I.E., CALLING IN POLICE WITHOUT CONSULTING FACULTY.
4. REGIONAL/ETHNIC FACTORS BEING CITED AMONG CAUSES BEHIND DISORDER. SOME STUDENTS COMPLAINING THAT STUDENTS

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 03976 060758Z

FROM NORTH FAVORED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. (THIS IS CORRECT).

IT IS OPENLY STATED GURC POLICY TO ENCOURAGE ADVANCED EDUCATION AMONG NORTHERNERS WHO VASTLY UNDERREPRESENTED AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODY RELATIVE TO POPULATION STATISTICS. CRITERIA ARE EASIER FOR NORTHERNERS TO QUALIFY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. ALSO SOME TALK THAT DISORDERS INCITED BY TRIBAL GROUP ANXIOUS TO DISPLACE PRESENT CHANCELLOR WITH ONE OF THEIR OWN.

5. COMMENT: WITH INTERNATIONAL AFRICANIST CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY AND CHIEFS OF STATE OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN YAOUNDE FOR LCBC MEETING, DEMONSTRATIONS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN TIMED TO BRING MAXIMUM EMBARRASSMENT TO GOVERNMENT. THIS TACTIC LIKELY BACKFIRE AND CAUSE GURC TO STIFFEN BACK. EVEN IF GURC WILLING REEXAMINE INDIVIDUAL CASES, IT CLEARLY UNABLE MEET STUDENT DEMANDS OF FULL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ALL.
MOORE

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